Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 VO-03 CA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /030 W
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R 280402Z OCT 77 FM AMEMBASSY MANILA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7172 INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 17146

FOR EA AND VO

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: CVIS, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF LOPEZ AND ALMEDA LOPEZ FAMILIES

REF: (A) MANILA 16970, (B) STATE 252891

1. AT FAMILIES' REQUEST, POL COUNSELOR OCTOBER 27 MET WITH MRS. CONCHITA LOPEZ AND MRS. AIDA ALMEDA LOPEZ, WIVES OF ESCAPEES EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR. AND JAKE ALMEDA LOPEZ, AND REVIEWED WITH THEM SUBSTANCE OF REF B.

2. LOPEZ WIVES CONFIRMED THAT THEY AND THEIR CHILDREN
HAD OBTAINED PASSPORTS AS WELL AS REQUIRED NBI CLEARANCES
AND WERE READY TO TRAVEL. THEY INDICATED THAT DESPITE
TROUBLING GOP HARRASSMENT THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO GO TO
HONG KONG TO AWAIT DECISION ON THEIR ADMISSION TO THE U.S.
THEY REMAIN QUITE CONCERNED HOWEVER THAT MARCOS WILL CHANGE
HIS MIND ABOUT LETTING THEM GO. FOR EXAMPLE, LOCAL PRESS
OCTOBER 27 FRONT-PAGED A STORY ABOUT THE ARREST THE PREVIOUS
DAY OF SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF A BOGUS PASSPORT RING WHICH,
ACCORDING TO A METROCOM OFFICER, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE FURNISHED
FALSE PASSPORTS USED IN THE LOPEZ/OSMENA ESCAPE. LOPEZ
WIVES WERE WORRIED THAT THEY MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO REMAIN
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HERE TO TESTIFY IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER.

3. MRS. ALMEDA LOPEZ NOTED THAT HER TEENAGE DAUGHTER CYNTHIA ALREADY HAD PASSPORT WITH MULTIPLE ENTRY U.S. VISA AND ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR DAUGHTER TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. AT THIS TIME IN ORDER TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO CONTINUE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION. POL COUNSELOR ADVISED

THAT DAUGHTER NOT REPEAT NOT TRAVEL TO THE U.S. UNTIL DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON HER FATHER'S STATUS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: AS NOTED REF A, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WE COULD GIVE THE FAMILIES HERE OUR BEST ESTIMATE AS TO WHEN THE FINAL INS DETERMINATION ON THESE CASES MIGHT BE MADE. STULL

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TAGS: CVIS, PINT, RP, (LOPEZ, ALMEDA)

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